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(54) COMPOSITE MATERIAL

(57) Abstract

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a composite material which possesses excellent mechanical strength and heat resistance by dispersing and incorporating in a molecular state a clay mineral having a specified layer thickness and a specified layer-to-layer spacing in a resin contg. a thermosetting resin.

SOLUTION: The resin in the composite material is a resin contg. a thermosetting resin and comprises either a thermosetting resin or a mixture of a thermosetting resin with other polymeric compd. Besides the blend polymer, graft polymer, copolymer, block copolymer and the like may be used as the mixture. The thermosetting resin is at least one resin selected from among phenolic resin, epoxy resin, unsatd. polyester resin, alkyd resin and the like. The layered clay mineral is a phyllosilicate mineral comprising magnesium silicate layer or an aluminum silicate layer which has a thickness of 7 to 12 Å and a layer-to-layer spacing of not less than 30 Å. The layered clay mineral is negatively charged due to isomorphous substitution or the like. The layered clay mineral has an occupied layer surface area of 25 to 200 Å² per univalence of the negative charge, a layer-to-layer spacing of not less than 30 Å and is incorporated in an amt. of 0.5 to 150 pts.wt. based on 100 pts.wt. resin.

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